Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELFAS 00147 291512Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /082 W
----------300947Z 052585 /15
R 291328Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1660
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 147

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE

REF: BELFAST 145 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL HAS CALLED FOR GENERAL WORK STOPPAGE IN NORTHERN IRELAND TO BEGIN MORNING MAY 3. THERE APPEARS BE LITTLE MASS SUPPORT OR SYMPATHY FOR "STRIKE" AND ACTION WILL DIVIDE UNIONIST COALITION AND PROBABLY ORANGE ORDER. SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF DEMONSTRATION IN TERMS OF POPULAR SUPPORT WILL BE DETERMINED EARLY AND IS DEPENDENT TO SOME EXTENT ON DEGREE INTIMIDATION APPLIED AND WHETHER SECURITY FORCES CAN MAINTAIN ORDER WITHOUT AROUSING SYMPATHY FOR DEMONSTRATORS. PROVISIONAL IRA COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SITUATION TO COMPOUND SECURITY PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. BELFAST NEWS LETTER APRIL 29 CARRIED FULL-PAGE AD "CALL TO ACTION" BY UNITED UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL FOR ALL LOYALISTS AT 12 MIDNIGHT ON MONDAY, MAY 2, TO JOIN IN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELFAS 00147 291512Z

COMPLETE STOPPAGE AND WITHDRAWAL OF LABOR AND A TOTAL WITHOLDING OF CONSENT OR SUPPORT TO DIRECT RULE. LAYOUT OF PAGE AND SPACE DEVOTED TO ISSUE GIVES LACK OF ACTION AGAINST I.R.A. AS PRIMARY REASON FOR PROTEST. SECRETARY OF STATE ROY MASON IS CHARGED WITH CLAIMING SECURITY POLICY WILL NOT BE ALTERED. THAT IT IS WINNING THE WAR. AD CONTINUES "IF THIS IS VICTORY WHAT WOULD DEFEAT BE LIKE?"

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

AD LISTS FOURTEEN INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO, ALONG
WITH ROY MASON, SAY "DO NOTHING." LIST INCLUDES HARRY
WEST AND OFFICIAL UNIONISTS, THE METHODIST CHURCH, JAMES
MOLYNEAUX, ENOCH POWELL AND OFFICIAL UNIONIST MEMBERS
PARLIAMENT. LIST DOES NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE ORANGE ORDER AND
AD DENIES ORANGE ORDER HAS EXPRESSED OPPOSITION TO PROTEST.

3. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RPT NOT DIVULGED CONTINGENCY PLANS.
PRESS REPORTS VARIOUSLY 400 OR 2000 EXTRA TROOPS WILL BE
AIRLIFTED IN AND WILL INCLUDE ENGINEERS TO RUN POWER STATIONS.
PRESENT TROOP STRENGTH 14,000. SECSTATE MASON AND PRIME
MINISTER CALLAGHAN CONTINUING TO URGE RESTRAINT BY PEOPLE
OF ULSTER AND CONTINUING TO GIVE ASSURANCES THAT GOVERNMENT
WILL NOT TOLERATE "ILLEGAL" ACTION.

4. CONTRARY TO SITUATION IN 1974 THERE IS VERY LITTLE
POPULAR SUPPORT FOR A GENERAL STRIKE. CONGEN HAS INQUIRED
AT SEVERAL FIRMS AND HAS NOT FOUND ANY THAT WILL CLOSE
OR THAT EXPECTS WORK-FORCE NOT TO REPORT "IF IT CAN."
NO AMERICAN FIRM INTENDS TO CLOSE BUT BERKSHIRE MILLS AT
DUNDONALD IS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO "PICKETING."
CONFEDERATION BRITISH INDUSTRY, NORTHERN IRELAND CHAMBER
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, NORTHERN IRELAND COMMITTEE IRISH
CONGRESS TRADE UNIONS AND HARLAND AND WOLFF SHOP-STEWARDS
HAVE ANNOUNCED FIRM OPPOSITION TO STRIKE. LEADERSHIP ORANGE
ORDER BELFAST ALSO OPPOSED TO STRIKE AND COUNTY GRAND MASTER
THOMAS PASSMORE HAS EXPRESSED FEARS THAT ACTION MAY MASK
"COUP D' ETAT." MANY INVOLVED IN UNIONIST ACTION COUNCIL
ARE ALSO ORANGEMEN HOWEVER. UNLIKE 1974, PROTESTANT BUSINESS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BELFAS 00147 291512Z

AND PROFESSIONAL CLASS HAS NO RPT NO SYMPATHY, EVEN TACIT,
FOR FORTHCOMING PROTEST. THEY AGREE WITH AIMS BUT DISLIKE
MEANS AND DISTRUST PAISLEY AND BAIRD. TARA, A SHADOWY
PROTESTANT PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION ONCE RUMORED TO BE
LINKED TO IAN PAISLEY HAS CONDEMNED STRIKE.

5. CONSENSUS HERE IS THAT SUCCESS OR FAILURE STRIKE WILL
BE DETERMINED EARLY. KEYS ARE ACTIONS ELECTRICITY
AND WATER WORKERS, EXTENT OF INTIMIDATION APPLIED BY
PROTESTANT PARAMILITARIES AND REACTION SECURITY FORCES.
CONGEN BELIEVES SECURITY FORCES WILL PREVENT BLOCKAGE MAIN
THOROUGHFARES BUT IT UNCLEAR WHETHER "PICKETING" OF
FACTORIES WILL BE PERMITTED. IT ALSO UNCLEAR WHETHER ARMY
OR ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY WILL BE CHIEF SECURITY INSTRUMENT.
IN EITHER CASE, CONGEN UNDERSTANDS INTENTION WILL BE TO USE
MINIMUM FORCE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER AND STILL AVOID
ACTIONS THAT WOULD AROUSE POPULAR SUPPORT FOR PROTESTERS.
THERE NO EASY JOBS FOR ARMY AND POLICE IN ULSTER.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

6. IN 1974 PROVISIONAL IRA LARGELY QUIESCENT. SHOULD THERE BE INCIDENTS IN INTER-FACE AREAS INVOLVING CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AFTER NEXT MONDAY THEY WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLICATE SITUATION. INTIMIDATION OF CATHOLICS WOULD ALSO INVOLVE OFFICIAL IRA BUT THEY NOT LIKELY TO SEEK PRETEXT.

SPICER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BELFAS00147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770151-1059
Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977046/aaaaaeve.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d41b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BELFAST 145
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2814971
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, UK, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d41b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009